

REMARKS

1. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the claims of the subject application into the following two invention Groups:

- I. Claims 1-32, drawn to a method for comparing protein compositions between at least two different samples utilizing mixture separation and image analysis; and
- II. Claims 33-37, drawn to a method of comparing protein compositions between at least two different samples by luminescent data capture.

Applicants herein elect Group I, including claims 1-32 corresponding to a method of comparing protein compositions between at least two different samples for further examination in the subject application, without traverse and without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims of Group II, including claims 33-37, have been withdrawn.

2. Election of Species

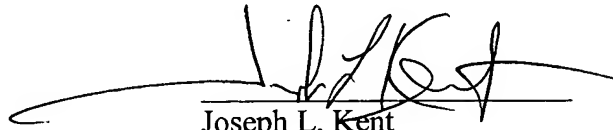
The Examiner asserts that if Group I is elected, Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a species for prosecution on the merits from the following three species:

- A. Claims 1-12 and 13-22 drawn to a method of comparing protein compositions with 1st and 2nd images employing 1st and 2nd filters;
- B. Claims 1-12 and 23-24 drawn to a method of comparing protein compositions with electrophoresis gel separation, gel imaging, and computer analysis; and
- C. Claims 1-12 and 25-32 drawn to a method of comparing protein compositions with computer analysis.

Applicants herein elect species group A for prosecution on the merits. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants respectfully request consideration of species B and C.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to the restriction requirement presented by the Examiner. Examination of the subject application's elected claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. L. Kent', is written over a horizontal line.

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